

Financial Aid News

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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HECB to consider emergency rules for financial aid programs

Afternoon forum to feature Pat Callan, president, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

At its June 11 meeting at Highline Community College, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) will be asked to adopt emergency rules for the State Need Grant (SNG), State Work Study (SWS), and Promise Scholarship programs. The emergency rules allow changes passed by the 2002 Legislature to take effect immediately for the 2002-03 award year.

Proposed SNG and SWS rules expand the definition of eligible institutions to include branches of out-of-state institutions that meet specific criteria. Proposed Promise Scholarship rules establish academic eligibility criteria and standards for satisfactory progress; they also clarify use of the award at Oregon institutions in the border county higher education opportunity project. Emergency rules for each program would recognize all six regional accrediting associations in defining eligible institutions.

The Board will consider permanent rules changes at its September meeting. Opportunity for public comment on the proposed rules will be provided prior to that meeting.



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Also on June 11, the HECB, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and the Higher Education Committees from both the House of Representatives and the Senate will co-sponsor an afternoon forum featuring Pat Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The center's recent report, "Losing Ground" (featured in the May 9 *Financial Aid News*), documents five national trends that are making college less affordable.

You can download the June 11 HECB meeting packet, including the location, agenda, and background materials, at www.hecb.wa.gov. "Losing Ground" is available online at www.highereducation.org.

SNG asks for deobligations, considers supplemental allocations

To ensure that current-year SNG funds are fully expended by June 30, 2002, the Board sent an email questionnaire to SNG administrators asking institutions to deobligate any SNG reserves they will not disburse by the end of the fiscal year. Institutions can also indicate if they are able to award additional funds, the maximum additional amount they can use, and the last day they can accept new funds for disbursement to students by June 30.

The deadline for return of the questionnaire is June 7. If you need more information or another copy, contact Chris Leeper at chrisl@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7840.

SNG to launch new payment request program for private and proprietary schools

Workshops on automated check request program scheduled for July

This month, the SNG program will unveil an updated version of its Warrant Request Utility, a computer software application for private and proprietary schools to request SNG payments to students. Based on feedback the Board received from a user survey last February, the new version brings several improvements to the application and makes it easier for administrators to gather information required for SNG interim reports.

SNG staff will conduct four workshops in locations around the state to introduce the software program to new users and highlight changes for those familiar with the previous version. The workshops are scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, June 12	1 to 4 p.m.	Toppenish — Heritage College
Wednesday, June 19	1 to 4 p.m.	Spokane — Gonzaga University
Tuesday, June 25	1 to 4 p.m.	Renton — Bryman College
Thursday, June 27	9 a.m. to 12 noon	Olympia — Higher Education Coordinating Board

To reserve your spot at a workshop or to find out more, contact Eryn Emerson at eryne@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7848.

Financial aid the hot topic in Hastings' tour of CWU

Fourth District congressman wants to maintain federal aid increases

Federal student aid was the most common topic of discussion for U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings (R-Pasco) when he toured Central Washington University (CWU) on May 31. During the tour, Hastings met with students, financial aid and admission staff, faculty, and CWU President Jerilyn McIntyre.

According to a June 1 report in the *Daily Record* (Kittitas County), the congressman said maintaining increases in federal aid remains one of his goals. "Student aid is the primary area where (the) federal government interacts with higher education," Hastings told CWU student leaders. "This is one that affects you directly, obviously."

Hastings noted, however, that the nation's slumping economy — particularly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — continues to have an adverse effect on the federal budget. "Our economic outlook was declining prior to 9-11. When 9-11 happened, there was a real shudder."

President McIntyre and Agnes Canedo, director of financial aid at CWU, also raised federal student aid as a priority. Canedo told the congressman that current direct loan maximums don't even cover tuition at the university. "It's safe to say many of our students couldn't attend without aid," she said.

The article is not available for redistribution.

Report says government studies ignore role of financial aid in making college accessible

U.S. Department of Education (ED) studies of access to college have consistently underestimated the impact of cuts in federal need-based aid, according to a new report by Indiana University researcher Edward P. St. John. The Indiana Education Policy Center in Bloomington released the report, "The Access Challenge: Rethinking the Causes of the New Inequality."

The report doesn't criticize the ED data, but rather re-examines that data — and draws different conclusions. The report claims that ED data leave "little doubt about the central role of financial aid in promoting and prohibiting equal opportunity." The study criticizes analysts at ED and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), an arm of ED, for having "focused on the influence of academic preparation on college enrollment and overlooked the role of financial aid" in assessing disparities in the college-going rates of different groups during the 1980s and 1990s.

In a pointed response to the Indiana report, William D. Hansen, deputy secretary at the Department, calls the Indiana report "simplistic" and "unfair." He notes that Pell Grant Program is a "flagship priority" of the current administration, and while the overall debt burden is up, the portion of that burden attributable to interest has dropped by more than half.

A *Chronicle of Higher Education* article on the Indiana report and the Department's response is available online to subscribers: [Report says government studies ignore role of financial aid in making college accessible](#). You can download the Indiana report at: [The access challenge: Rethinking the causes of the new inequality](#).

Nontraditional students dominate undergraduate enrollments **Rising age and independence of undergraduates one of many trends documented in latest NCES compendium**

Whether you agree with Professor St. John or not, you may want to take a look at "The Condition of Education 2002," released by NCES this week. Among its findings: almost 75 percent of today's undergraduate students are considered "nontraditional" because of their age, financial independence, or when they enrolled in college. Compared to 1970, proportionately more students are enrolled part time, attend two-year colleges, and are over the age of 25. And women have replaced men as the majority — up from 42 percent in 1970 to 56 percent in 1999.

NCES prepares "The Condition of Education" each year for Congress. The report is a compendium of facts and data on the state of education in the U.S. at all levels. Each year, the report also provides special analysis on certain topics, such as this year's look at non-traditional students.

The report's findings on nontraditional students are summarized in a *Chronicle* article available online to subscribers: [Nontraditional students dominate undergraduate enrollments, U.S. study finds](#). You can download "The Condition of Education 2002" at: [NCES Electronic Catalog](#).